

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action dated May 29, 2008, Applicant is filing along with this Amendment, an RCE Application and is amending the pending claims in the parent application in accordance with this Amendment.

The present application includes claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 74, 79, 80 and 83-90. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 74, 79, 80 and 83-90 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 74, 85, 88 and 89 are amended. Claims 91-95 have been added. Support for the amendments and added claims can be found in Paras. [0048]-[0052].

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 74, 79, 80, 83, 84 and 88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Barnes (Pub. No. 2003/0065805).

Claims 85, 86, 89 and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes in view of Langseth (U.S. 6,662,195).

Claims 87 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes in view of Langseth and in further view of Bar (U.S. 6,456,852).

Applicant desires to acknowledge and express appreciation for the courtesies extended during the recent telephone interview with Examiners Duffield and Beliveau regarding the subject case on August 5, 2008. During the interview, Applicant discussed the meaning of the term “virtual environment” and the Barnes reference. Although no agreement was reached, the Examiners indicated that their understanding of the term “virtual environment” was consistent with Applicant’s understanding of such term, that is, a three dimensional type environment. In this regard, the Examiners suggested that Applicant use such terms as an “immersive virtual environment”, “virtual tour”, or other language supported in the specification. Applicant’s

specification at paragraph 47 through 52 discusses Applicant's virtual environment display.

Although the term "immersive" is not specifically used in the specification, the use of such term is consistent with and supported by Applicant's use of the terms "virtual walkthrough", "virtual tour", "360-degree image", or "360-degree tour". Applicant has amended all of the independent claims presently pending in the application to include the term "virtual walkthrough environment" to denote a 3-dimensional environment, not a 2-dimensional environment.

Applicant now turns to the rejections of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 74, 79, 80, 83, 84 and 88 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), which were rejected for being clearly anticipated by Barnes. The Examiner stated Barnes teaches a display on a communications device that can present multiple forms of location-specific information including local points of interest on a map, thereby creating a virtual environment in which a user can interact with the information. However, as was discussed with the Examiner in the Examiner Interview of August 5, 2008, the teachings of Barnes do not relate to an immersive virtual environment which enables a user to take a virtual tour or virtual walkthrough of a location or of a product. Therefore, as discussed with and suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 74 to include language which clarifies that the "virtual environment" is a "virtual walkthrough environment".


Independent claims 85, 88 and 89 have all been likewise amended to include such "virtual walkthrough environment" language as well. Further, dependent claims 91-95 have been added which further relate to this "virtual walkthrough environment" language. As the new language in independent claims 1, 74, 85, 88 and 89 specifically discloses a virtual environment which allows a display screen to display a walkthrough environment which allows the user to walkthrough or tour a location in three dimensions, and as Barnes does not teach such a virtual walkthrough environment, Applicant respectfully submits that Barnes, alone or in combination

with other references, does not teach all limitations of independent claims 1, 74, 85, 88 and 89, and that such independent claims are therefore allowable. Further, as all independent claims now include this "virtual walkthrough environment" language, Applicant respectfully submits that Barnes, alone or in combination with other references, does not teach all limitations of dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 79, 80, 83, 84, 86, 87 and 90-95, and that all such dependent claims are therefore allowable.

As discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented in this Request for Continued Examination overcome the previous rejections and that the claims should be allowed without further amendment. If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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